

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

HOUSE BILL NO. 2938

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 16, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that *"all persons shall have the right to a speedy disposition of their cases before all judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative bodies."* This constitutional mandate underscores the importance of a judicial system that is not only fair but also efficient and accessible to all.

Currently, the Hall of Justice in Iligan City, located in Barangay Tubod, is experiencing significant infrastructural deterioration, which hampers its capacity to serve the populace effectively. The facility's deficiencies, including undersized and insufficient courtrooms, the absence of dedicated archives for legal documents, and the lack of secure storage facilities for physical evidence—severely undermine the judiciary's ability to function in accordance with the principles of justice and public service

The Hall of Justice also houses several key offices under the Department of Justice (DOJ), including the Office of the City Prosecutor, Office of the Provincial Prosecutor, Public Attorney's Office (PAO), Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR), and the Parole and Probation Administration. The condition of the existing facility compromises the ability of these offices to function effectively and serve the public.

Furthermore, several first-level courts can no longer be accommodated within the confines of the current Hall of Justice. Consequently, they have been compelled to operate from rented spaces located at considerable distances

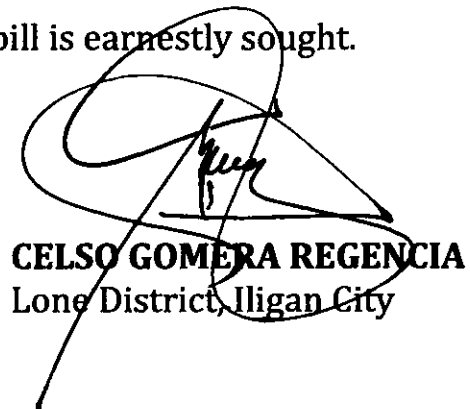
from the main courthouse. These conditions have not only placed additional logistical burdens on judges, court personnel, and DOJ employees, but have also caused undue inconvenience to litigants and the general public, contributing to delays in the disposition of cases.

The administration of justice necessitates not only the presence of capable legal practitioners but also appropriate infrastructure to support their vital functions. A Hall of Justice must embody values of integrity, efficiency, and accessibility, serving as a beacon for all individuals seeking legal recourse.

This bill, therefore, seeks the construction of a new and modern Hall of Justice in Iligan City. The proposed facility will include full-equipped and functional courtrooms and offices, along with essential provisions such as archives for legal documents, secure storage for pieces of evidence, and accessibility features designed to accommodate persons with disabilities (PWDs) and senior citizens.

By investing in the development of such infrastructure, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the prompt and equitable delivery of justice, thereby upholding the constitutional rights and dignity of every Filipino.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



CELSO GOMERA REGENCIA
Lone District, Iligan City

**Republic of the Philippines
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**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HALL OF JUSTICE FOR
ILIGAN CITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Be it enacted by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Philippines in session assembled:

SECTION 1. *Authorization.* – The Department of Justice (DOJ) is hereby authorized to construct the new Hall of Justice for the City of Iligan.

SECTION 2. *Funding Source.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the appropriations of the DOJ under the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 3. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,